

ENGL 318 TOPICS IN CREATIVE WRITING: FORMS OF WRITING AND
PHOTOGRAPHY and Visual Art: CRAFT AND THEORY

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“The camera doesn't possess, though it may presume, intrude, trespass, distort, and exploit,” says Susan Sontag in *On Photography*. The best pictures, like the greatest literature and visual art, are about the articulation of universal sensations. It's the artists' job to stand on the blade of exposure, to understand what must be concealed and revealed, and to master the art until the story belongs to the form. This seminar will relate photographic theory to the arts of memoir, fiction, and poetry. We will look at the way the arts communicate similarly. We will examine the necessity for the writer, like the photographer, to understand the self at a distance. Students will be taught how to read photographs and literature with an eye toward solving the biggest challenges in both forms. We will be instructed by photographic technique and composition: what the artist captures through the lens is the only information available to the viewer; there is no back-story, flash back, or interiority; all information is presented in lived scene or tableaux. In this course

on creative process, we will embark on the serious study of thematically linked memoir, fiction, poetry and photography; reading and viewing seminal works.